

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03790 231421Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 PRS-01 SSO-00 EURE-00
NSCE-00 L-03 EB-08 /045 W
-----017420 231426Z /43
O 231342Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4267
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3790

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NO
SUBJECT: LORAN C - STORTINGSMEN RELEASE SCHEI REPORT

REF: (A) OSLO 3736 (B) STATE 29672 (C) OSLO 3012

1. STORTINGSMEMBER AND LEFT SOCIALIST (SV) PARTY CHAIRMAN BERGE FURRE FINALLY MADE GOOD ON HIS THREAT TO RELEASE THE SCHEI REPORT. THAT REPORT, A 1975 NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR THE STORTING DEFENSE COMMITTEE, CONCERNS NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE U.S. REGARDING THE MID-60S INSTALLATION OF LORAN C FACILITIES IN NORWAY. THE REPORT, EXTRACTED IN REF C, INCLUDES INTERNAL GON MEMORANDA AND EXCHANGES WITH USG OFFICIALS.

2. FURRE AND FELLOW SV STORTINGSMAN FINN GUSTAVSEN QUOTED PORTIONS OF THE REPORT TO AN OPEN SV PARTY MEETING ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 22. BOTH CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD BROKEN THEIR OATHS OF SILENCE AS STORTINGSMEN BECAUSE OF THEIR DUTY TO THE PEOPLE OF NORWAY. THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE FULL REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 24. BOTH FURRE AND GUSTAVSEN WERE CAREFUL TO SAY THAT NONE OF THEIR DISCLOSURES WOULD ENDANGER RELATIONS WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY (IE., U.S.).

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3. THE INITIAL REACTION OF THE NEWS MEDIA HAS BEEN NOTABLY RESTRAINED. THUS FAR, THE BROADCAST MEDIA HAVE NOT AIRED ANY PORTIONS OF THE REPORT. THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO, WITH ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION, REFRAINED FROM PUBLISHING THE SCHEI REPORT MATERIAL. THE EXCEPTION, DAGBLADET, PUBLISHED SEVERAL OF THE EXCERPTS NOTED IN REF C. THE REMAINING MEDIA HAVE, INSTEAD, REPORTED ON THE FURRE/GUSTAVSEN ACTIONS

AND ON THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS.

4. THE REACTIONS OF POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE BEEN STRONG, WITH NEAR UNIVERSAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE SV PARLIAMENTARIANS' BREACH OF SECRECY. THAT ACTION IS SEEN AS DEPLORABLE ON THE PART OF THE PERPETRATOR AND, IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES, AS INDICATIVE OF FLAWS IN THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY.

5. WHILE MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSSED ON THE DEEDS OF FURRE AND GUSTAVSEN, LITTLE INTEREST, AS YET, HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SCHEI REPORT. AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON ON AUGUST 23, THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED ONLY TWO INQUIRIES ON THE MATTER. (RESPONSES WERE IN ACCORD WITH GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF A PARA 4).

6. SUBSEQUENT PRESS/POLITICAL REACTIONS AS WELL AS ANALYSIS OF LOCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR USG INTERESTS TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, LORAN, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OSLO03790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770304-0211
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770833/aaaabbsp.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07f56856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OSLO 3736, 77 STATE 29672, 77 OSLO 3012
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1516913
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LORAN C - STORTINGSMEN RELEASE SCHEI REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, NO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07f56856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009